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21H.102 The Emergence of Modern America 1865-Present
Spring 2003

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Professor Meg Jacobs
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Fall 2004
Lecture: M, 1-2:30
Discussion: W, 1-2:30 or F, 1-2:30

**21H.102: The Emergence of Modern America,
1865 to the Present**

In a century and a half, the United States has gone from a nation torn apart by civil war to a global economic and military superpower. This course will ask why and how that dramatic transformation occurred. Throughout the semester, we will explore the emergence of a strong national government, the growth of a mass consumption economy, the evolution of civil rights, and the expansion of American international power.

Students will be responsible for all readings prior to Monday's class. The class will be divided between lectures and discussions. Participation in weekly discussions counts for 25%. There are two five-page paper assignments, based on the readings, with each counting for 25%. You will rewrite the first paper as part of the CI requirement. For the second paper you will collect primary documents to use as a supplement to the assigned readings. The final paper will be a ten-page paper and will also count for 25%. There is no final exam.

The required books are:

Nash, Jeffrey, et al., American People, vol. 2
Nash and Graves, From These Beginnings, vol. 2
Riordan, Plunkitt of Tammany Hall
Polenberg, The Era of Franklin D. Roosevelt
Schulman, Lyndon B. Johnson and American Liberalism

Week One: Reconstructing a Nation

September 8: Lecture (no sections this week)

American People, Chapters 16, 17

Week Two: The Rise of the City

September 13: Lecture

September 15 or 17: Discussion

Riordan, 45-102; American People, Chapters 18, 19

Week Three: Progressivism

September 20: Lecture
September 22 or 24: Discussion

Nash and Graves, Jane Addams and Gifford Pinchot;
Riordan, 117-134; American People, Chapter 21

Week Four: World War I

September 27: Lecture; **Paper One Due**
September 29 or October 1: Discussion

American People, Chapters 20, 22

Week Five: Modern Times

October 4: Lecture
October 6 or 8: Discussion; **Primary Document Collection Due**

Nash and Graves, Henry Ford; American People, Chapter 23

Week Six: Great Depression

October 11: No Class
October 13: Lecture (**No Discussion section this week); **Rewrite Due**

Nash and Graves, Eleanor Roosevelt, American People, Chapter 24

Week Seven: New Deal

October 18: Lecture
October 20 or 24: Discussion

Polenberg, 39-57, 68-77, 83-132

Week Eight: World War II

October 25: Lecture
October 27 or 29: Discussion

Polenberg, 147-151, 184-227; American People, Chapter 25

Week Nine: Age of Affluence

November 1: Lecture
November 3 or 5: Discussion; **Primary Document Collection Due**

Nash and Graves, Elvis Presley; American People,
Chapter 26

Week Ten: Cold War

November 8: Lecture; **Paper Two Due**
November 10 or 12: Discussion

Nash and Graves, Richard Nixon, American People,
Chapter 27

Week Eleven: Civil Rights

November 15: Lecture
November 17 or 19: Discussion

Schulman, 169-212; Nash and Graves, Martin Luther King;
American People, Chapter 29

Week Twelve: Vietnam

November 22: Lecture
November 24: Discussion (**Friday discussion on
Wednesday)

Schulman, 213-245; American People, Chapter 28

Week Thirteen: Age of Limits

November 29 Lecture
December 1 or 3: Discussion

Nash and Graves, Gloria Steinem, American People,
Chapter 30

Week Fourteen: New World Order

December 6: Lecture
December 8: Discussion (**Friday discussion on
Wednesday)

December 10: **Final Paper Due**

Nash and Graves, Ted Turner; American People, Chapter
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